

Testimony of Edward Banasiak regarding State of Connecticut Gun Bills – March 13, 2022

- SB16- Governor's Bill 16- "An Act Addressing Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime"
- HB 5416- "An Act Concerning Bulk Purchases of Pistols and Revolvers"

I am a Retired Police over with 31 years of service. During my time as a Police Officer I was shot in the line of duty.

I am for reasonable gun control to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and persons who are mentally ill.

I oppose SB16 "An Act Addressing Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime".

I do not see any legitimate purpose to restrict an individual who has a State and Federal Background Check, undergone Firearms Training, has had a NCIC Check, and is under constant scrutiny from the State of Connecticut Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice System and who is allowed to possess a pistol or revolver in public, from possessing that firearm once they walk into a State or Municipal Building. Why would that person be any more of a threat because the building was owned and under the control of a municipality or the State of Connecticut? These individuals are under constant scrutiny since as you are well aware, in Connecticut if an individual who was issued a pistol/revolver permit was engaged in any threatening or violent behavior or was arrested for a felony or eleven misdemeanors, including drug offenses, their permit to carry would be revoked and they would be required to surrender their firearms. If these individuals are vetted and kept under such scrutiny, why would our State Legislators and Governor want to take away their ability to defend themselves once they walked into a State or Municipal building, or got on a bus or train? In my opinion, this bill would put women and the elderly at particular risk of death, or serious physical injury. I know of cases where women are working alone in municipal offices and dealing with large amounts of cash. Their superiors encouraged them to obtain a Pistol Permit and keep a firearm with them for their safety. This bill would deny them their ability to do that. I also feel that people who must use the bus or train to commute to and from work at night, would be forced to walk home from the bus or train station unable to protect themselves.

I see this bill as doing nothing to make Connecticut safer and feel it would only threaten the safety of law abiding citizens of our state who have been vetted to carry a firearm for protection. I feel, this bill would only allow criminals to identify citizens as "easy targets", particularly women and the elderly who exited municipal, state buildings, buses, or trains at night.

I oppose making 22 Rimfire semi-automatic rifles "Assault Weapons" if they have a pistol grip. With their low recoil, and lower cost of ammunition, I have found these firearms to be valuable for teaching younger individuals, like my grandson, how to safely shoot and handle firearms at the range.

If these firearms were classified as "Assault Weapons", I would no longer be able to transfer them to my grandchildren or daughters, once they obtained the proper firearms permits. I see no reason to classify these rifles as "Assault Weapons", as I know of no shootings in which the weaker and less reliable 22 LR cartridge was used.

I also oppose HB 5416- "An Act Concerning Bulk Purchases of Pistols and Revolvers."

As you are well aware, in the State of Connecticut, before someone can purchase a Pistol or Revolver, they must take a Safety Course, be fingerprinted, and pass a State and Federal Fingerprint Background Check, and Police Background Check. When they purchase the firearm they must also pass a National Criminal Instant Check (NICS), each time they purchase a firearm.

Once they purchase a firearm in Connecticut, the firearm is registered in their name. They cannot Sell, Deliver, or Transfer that firearm without Contacting the State Police Firearms Unit. They must provide the State Police with their Pistol Permit Number, the Pistol Permit Number of the Person they are transferring the firearm to, as well as the serial number of the firearm. They must obtain an Authorization Number to transfer the firearm, and then register the transfer of the firearm with the Chief of Police in the town where the person receiving the firearm resides, and the State Police Firearms Unit. The Seller or Person transferring the firearm must maintain documentation for the transfer of the firearm and produce such documentation upon request by the State Police, even years after the transfer, or be subjected to a possible felony arrest. I understand that if multiple firearms are purchased within a time period, Firearms Dealers must notify the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

With such laws in place in Connecticut, I do not see any legitimate reason why a person should be limited to the purchase of only one pistol or revolver per 30-day period.

I have owned pistols and revolvers for the past 45 years. I may have purchased more than one handgun within a thirty-day period twice during those 45 years. At this time, I do not have any intention of purchasing any handguns, but would like to be able to, if I decide to at some time in the future. My thought would be, if I did purchase a handgun and then learned someone was selling another handgun, or if I came across a good deal on another used handgun at a gun store, that I was interested in purchasing within a 30-day period, I would not be able to purchase that second handgun. Another concern I have with this bill is what if I decided to sell more than one handgun. Gun stores offer less money for a used handgun than I could get doing a private sale. As you are aware, the same paperwork and procedure must be followed in Connecticut when selling a handgun through a private sale as when selling it to a dealer (FFL). The individual buying two handguns would not be able to do so under this bill as he would have to wait 30 days to buy the second hand gun.

Another concern I have with this bill is what if I wanted to sell or transfer more than one handgun to a family member? I would only be able to transfer one handgun a month?

With all the statutes in presently in place in the State of Connecticut, regulating the transfer, of handguns, including the documentation, authorization, and background checks required, I see no legitimate reason for this bill.

Sincerely,

Edward Banasiak
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